

Saving sight, changing lives



Claudia Jenke/Sightsavers

For over 50 years, Sightsavers International has been working with local partners to combat blindness in developing countries and support people who are blind. During this time, we've helped restore sight to more than five million people and treat over 100 million for potentially blinding conditions. We help the people who need it most - those living in poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

Through partners, we support people who are blind, providing education, counselling and training. We work with international, national and community organisations run by and for people with disabilities to advocate for equal opportunities and rights.

Blindness and poverty are inextricably linked. We believe that governments, international and national organisations must therefore all contribute to tackling the root causes of poverty.

As well as being members of campaigning groups such as the Global Campaign for Education, we also support our partners in lobbying their governments to provide a more comprehensive health system, and introduce social inclusion policies.

FACT FILES

- Globally, every five seconds a person goes blind
- 37 million people in the world today are blind
- 75% of global blindness can be prevented or cured
- Nine out of ten blind people live in developing countries
- Only 2% of children with disabilities go to school

Where we work

Seventy five per cent of blindness in the world is either avoidable or treatable, yet millions of men, women and children all over the world remain blind. By supporting our work in the countries marked below, you will be helping us in our continuing fight to combat needless blindness.



How we work

Sightsavers works in over 30 countries around the world, and we believe that all of our activities should follow certain key principles.

Working in partnership - We work with local partners who directly implement projects. These partners range from government ministries of health and education to community-based non-governmental organisations. We learn from our partners and share training, best practice and technical support with them. Where possible we integrate our programs into existing government structures.

Influencing others - Influencing others on important policy issues plays a key role in helping people who are blind or visually impaired to have equal opportunities and rights, as well as achieving the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness. We use our experience, research and good practice to influence district and national governments. As members of campaigning organisations we advocate for disabled people to be included in discussions and policy decisions.

Joining up - Sightsavers also works in partnership with other organisations and charities. We are founding members of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, an international partnership of eye care agencies and the World Health Organization, which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020 and to prevent 100 million people from going blind.